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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,402	08/02/2001	Herbert Blum	PRINZ H1768	6054
27667	7590	08/19/2004	EXAMINER	
HAYES, SOLOWAY P.C. 130 W. CUSHING STREET TUCSON, AZ 85701			WINTER, JOHN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	

DATE MAILED: 08/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/921,402

Applicant(s)

BLUM ET AL.

Examiner

John M Winter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/11/2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-5 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The use of the phrase "...wherein the said second encryption code is different from or even the same as the first encryption code" renders this claim indefinite.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The use of the phrase "and/or" renders these claims indefinite.

Claims 4 and 5 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 4 and 5 have not been further treated on the merits.

Examiner objects that claims 1-5 contain numerous references to undetermined descriptions e.g. "product selection terminal (10)"

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simmons et al., (US Patent Application Publication No 2001/0039659) in view of Patterson (US Patent No 6,389,541).

As per claim 1,

Simmons et al. ('659) discloses a method for secure data transmission in selling products. wherein a product selection terminal as well as counter means comprising a document reading

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station and a product delivery storage are provided and wherein at the product selection terminal a product is selected and a document for the selected product is output by means of a printing device characterized in(Figures 1,2)

that said document is provided with a first self-checking encryption code and with a first algorithm for encrypting a product identification of the selected product or the selling identification of a selling process, wherein one or more selling identifications are provided on said document, (Page 3, paragraph 401; figure 3)

Simmons et al. ('659) does not explicitly disclose "that said encryption on said document is identified at the document reading station, wherein the value associated to said product is detected and forwarded to said counter means for balancing the value, that after the payment of said product said counter means delivers an electronic information carrier by means of an output device connected thereto, wherein said electronic information carrier includes a CPU generating a second self-checking encryption code having any encryption depth by means of a second algorithm for encrypting all the products being paid; that said electronic information carrier is supplied to a reading unit in said product delivery storage in order to identify and to decrypt said second encryption code, wherein in case of an authorized identification the delivery of the selected product in the selected quantity from the product delivery storage is started", Patterson. ('541) discloses "that said encryption on said document is identified at the document reading station, wherein the value associated to said product is detected and forwarded to said counter means for balancing the value, that after the payment of said product said counter means delivers an electronic information carrier by means of an output device connected thereto, wherein said electronic information carrier includes a CPU generating a second self-checking encryption code having any encryption depth by means of a second algorithm for encrypting all the products being paid; that said electronic information carrier is supplied to a reading unit in said product delivery storage in order to identify and to decrypt said second encryption code, wherein in case of an authorized identification the delivery of the selected product in the selected quantity from the product delivery storage is started".(Column 11, lines 21-45; figure 8). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Simmons et al. ('659) method with the Patterson ('541) method in order in order to provide data security.

As per claim 2,

Simmons et al. ('659) discloses the method for secure data transmission in selling products according claim 1

Simmons et al. ('659) does not explicitly disclose "output device includes a CPU generating said second self-checking encryption code by means of a second or the same algorithm for encrypting the products being paid wherein said electronic information carrier is provided as a passive memory and wherein a PIN is additionally inserted.", Patterson. ('541) discloses "output device includes a CPU generating said second self-checking encryption code by means of a second or the same algorithm for encrypting the products being paid wherein said electronic information carrier is provided as a passive memory and wherein a PIN is additionally inserted".(Column 11, lines 21-45). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Simmons et al. ('659) method with the Patterson ('541) method in order in order to provide data security.

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As per claim 3,

Simmons et al. ('659) discloses the method for secure data transmission in selling products according claim 1 or 2

Official Notice is taken that "algorithm does not represent an encryption algorithm and that no encryption of said document is applied" is common and well known in prior art in reference to secure data. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a checksum algorithm to verify the integrity of the data (such as the well known CRC algorithm) that would involve no encryption of the document.

As per claim 4,

Simmons et al. ('659) discloses the method for secure data transmission in selling products according to any of the preceding claims,

characterized in that an encrypted data transmission between said product delivery and said product delivery terminal is provided.(Figure 3)

As per claim 5,

Simmons et al. ('659) discloses the method for secure data transmission in selling products according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that said data transmission between the individual zones comprising the product selection zone the counter zone and the product delivery zone is established by means of information carriers and/or devices operating by means of printing engineering, radio engineering, lighting engineering or magnetically.(Figure 1)

Conclusion

Examiners note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M Winter whose telephone number is (703) 305-3971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6, 1st Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P Trammell can be reached on (703)305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

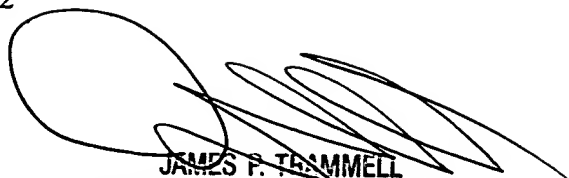
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JMW

August 8, 2004


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